

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks herewith, which place the application into condition for allowance. The present amendment is being made to facilitate prosecution of the application.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 1, 6, 7, 9-15 and 18, 21 and 23 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 11, and 23 are independent. Claims 1, 9, 10, 11 and 23 are hereby amended. It is submitted that these claims, as originally presented, were in full compliance with the requirements 35 U.S.C. §112. No new matter has been introduced by this amendment. Support for this amendment is provided throughout the specification, specifically on pages 10. Changes to claims are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §101, §102, §103, or §112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which the Applicants are entitled.

II. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 9 and 10, which were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, have been amended, obviating the rejection.

III. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1, 6, 9-13 and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,133,909 to Schein, et al (hereinafter, merely “Schein”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,134,547 to Huxley, et al. (hereinafter, merely “Huxley”).

Claim 7 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Schein in view of Huxley and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,598,039 to Livowsky et al.

Claim 14 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Schein in view of Huxley and further in view of U.S. Pre Grant Publication No. 2003/0014753 to Beach et al.

Claims 15 and 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Schein in view of Huxley and further in view of Livowsky.

Claim 18 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Schein in view of Huxley and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,463,428 to Lee et al.

IV. RESPONSE TO REJECTIONS

Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*:

“...wherein, when the additional keyword is received in the receiving step, the input retrieval keyword is extracted from the dictionary database as a function of the additional keyword in the extracting step...” (Emphasis Added)

As understood by Applicants, Schein relates to a method and apparatus for searching a guide and using a user’s input of desired program characteristics to identify particular programs that may be of interest to the user.

As understood by Applicants, Huxley discloses a way of searching a data based on misspelled queries, as well as correlating all the alternate names of persons in the database.

Applicants respectfully submit that neither Schein nor Huxley, taken alone or in combination, that would teach or suggest the above identified features of claim 1. Specifically, neither of the references used as a basis for rejection describe when the additional keyword is received in the receiving step, the input retrieval keyword is extracted from the dictionary database as a function of the additional keyword in the extracting step, as recited in claim 1.

Specifically, the Office Action relies on Huxley to describe examples of when a user enters keyword of one genre and the query retrieves additional keyword from another genre, and the Office Action also relies on Schein to describe extracting additional keywords related to the input retrieval keyword. However, Applicants submit that in the Huxley system, users may input a complete term or just the first few letters of any "keyword" term to get a result list that shows keywords that begin with that string as well as those that have that string of characters embedded within (See, Huxley, col. 7, lines 45-50), and, in the Schein system, if the user selected MOVIES and entered "DR." the system might provide a list which includes "Dr. Doolittle," "Dr. Zhivago," "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde," and "Dr. Strangelove (See, Schein, col. 13, lines 40-43). But in the present invention, the input retrieval keyword and the extracted additional keyword (relevant keyword) are so interrelated that when "SPAM" as the group 324, which is an additional keyword, is used as the retrieval keyword 210, "K-mura-T-ya" as the person's name 310, "Kemuratekuya" as the reading 321, and "K-mu-T-ku" as the nickname/informal name 322 are extracted as the relevant keywords 320 (See, Specification page 10, [0048]). Thus, nothing has been found in Schein or Huxley that would teach when the additional keyword is received in the receiving step, the input retrieval keyword is extracted

from the dictionary database as a function of the additional keyword in the extracting step, as recited in claim 1.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that Schein and Huxley fail to teach or suggest when the additional keyword is received in the receiving step, the input retrieval keyword is extracted from the dictionary database as a function of the additional keyword in the extracting step, as recited in claim 1.

Therefore, Applicants submit that independent claim 1 is patentable.

For reasons similar to those described above with regard to independent claim 1, independent claims 11 and 23 are patentable.

Therefore, Applicants submit that independent claims 1, 11 and 23 are patentable.

V. DEPENDENT CLAIMS

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In the event the Examiner disagrees with any of statements appearing above with respect to the disclosure in the cited reference, or references, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner specifically indicate those portions of the reference, or references, providing the basis for a contrary view.

Please charge any additional fees that may be needed, and credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are patentable and Applicants respectfully request early passage to issue of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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